To assess the effects of antibiotics in adults with acute maxillary sinusitis by comparing antibiotics with placebo, antibiotics from three different countries were used: Singapore, South Africa, and Australia. The primary outcome was antibiotic use, with a secondary outcome being time to resolution of symptoms.

**Target Population**
- Adults with acute maxillary sinusitis

**Main Study Objective**
- To determine the efficacy of antibiotics compared with placebo for resolving symptoms of acute maxillary sinusitis.

**Setting**
- Primary care settings

**Int Length**
- Seven days versus three days treatment or placebo

**Exclusion Criteria**
- Participants with medical reasons excluded
- Participants with Centor criteria:
  - History of fever
  - Absence of localizing signs
  - Tenderness over the affected site
  - Purulent nasal discharge or rhinorrhoea

**Participants**
- 1,047 participants
- 11 studies

**Outcome Measures**
- Duration and severity measures for pain, malaise, fever, cough
- Satisfaction
- Healthcare utilisation
- Adverse effects of treatment

**Results**
- Antibiotics decreased the risk of clinical failure (pooled RR of 0.66, 95% CI 0.57 to 0.77).
- Antibiotics were associated with a shorter time to cure (0.46 to 0.52 days).
- Antibiotics were associated with a higher rate of abscess (9.5% versus 1.7%).
- Antibiotics were associated with a lower rate of rheumatic fever (0.05% versus 0.14%).

**Conclusion**
- Antibiotics are effective in the treatment of acute maxillary sinusitis, with a significant reduction in clinical failure and a shorter time to cure.